

**In the claims:**

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A ratcheting tool comprising:
  - a. a body;
  - b. a gear rotatably disposed in said body and defining a first plurality of teeth about an outer circumference thereof;
  - c. a pawl slidably disposed in said body and having  
a front side that faces said first plurality of gear teeth and that has a second plurality of teeth, and  
  
a back side facing away from said gear, wherein said pawl is slidably movable between a first position in which said body imparts rotation to said gear in a first direction and a second position in which said body imparts rotation to said gear in a second direction opposite said first direction; ~~and~~
  - d. a detent disposed in said body and in operative engagement with said pawl back side so that said detent slides across said pawl back side and biases said pawl into said first and said second positions, said detent having,  
a front wall,  
  
a back wall, and  
  
a spring base connecting said front wall and said back wall, wherein said base biases said front wall away from said back wall and toward said pawl back side; and
  - e. a lever disposed in said body, wherein said lever receives said detent so that when said lever is rotated said pawl is urged between said first and said second positions;.
2. (Cancelled)
3. (Original) The ratcheting tool of claim 2 1, said lever further comprising :

- a. a handle; and
  - b. a bottom portion, wherein said detent is disposed in said bottom portion.
4. (Original) The ratcheting tool of claim 3, wherein said bottom portion defines a chamber proximate to said pawl that receives said detent back wall.
5. (Original) The ratcheting tool of claim 1, wherein said pawl defines a first radius and wherein said gear defines a second radius that is smaller than said first radius.
6. (Withdrawn) A ratcheting tool comprising:
- a. a body;
  - b. a gear rotatably disposed in said body and defining a first plurality of teeth about an outer circumference thereof;
  - c. a pawl disposed in said body and having
    - a front side that faces said first plurality of gear teeth and that has a second plurality of teeth, and
    - a back side facing away from said gear, wherein said pawl is movable between a first position in which said body imparts rotation to said gear in a first direction and a second position in which said body imparts rotation to said gear in a second direction opposite said first direction; and
  - d. a detent disposed in said body and in operative engagement with said pawl so that said detent biases said pawl into said first and said second positions, said detent having,
    - a first sidewall,
    - a second sidewall opposing said first side wall,
    - a spring front wall intermediate and connecting said first and said second side walls, wherein said front wall biases said first and said second side walls toward each other.

7. (Withdrawn) The ratchet tool of claim 6, further comprising a lever disposed in said body, wherein said lever receives said detent so that when said lever is rotated said pawl is urged between said first and said second positions.
8. (Withdrawn) The ratchet tool of claim 7, said lever further comprising :
  - a. a handle; and
  - b. a bottom portion, wherein said detent is operatively connected to said bottom portion.
9. (Withdrawn) The ratchet tool of claim 8, said bottom portion defining a front face intermediate a first and a second recessed portion, wherein said recessed portions define curved walls.
10. (Withdrawn) The ratchet tool of claim 9, wherein said detent first and second sidewalls straddle said bottom portion front face and rest against respective walls of said recessed portions.
11. (Withdrawn) The ratchet tool of claim 6, said detent first and second sidewalls each further comprising a curved edge portion.
12. (Withdrawn) The ratchet tool of claim 11, wherein said detent curved edge portions slide along said respective recessed walls.
13. (Withdrawn) The ratchet tool of claim 9, wherein said recessed curved walls further include respective flat wall regions.
14. (Withdrawn) The ratchet tool of claim 13, wherein said detent first and second sidewalls operatively engage respective recessed flat wall regions.
15. (Withdrawn) The ratcheting tool of claim 6, wherein said pawl defines a first radius and wherein said gear defines a second radius that is smaller than said first radius.
16. (Withdrawn) A ratcheting tool comprising:
  - a. a body;
  - b. a gear rotatably disposed in said body and defining a first plurality of teeth about an outer circumference thereof;
  - c. a pawl disposed in said body and having  
a front side that faces said first plurality of gear teeth and that has

a second plurality of teeth, and

a back side facing away from said gear, wherein said pawl is movable between a first position in which said body imparts rotation to said gear in a first direction and a second position in which said body imparts rotation to said gear in a second direction opposite said first direction;

- d. a lever rotatably disposed in said body proximate said pawl; and
- e. a detent disposed in a blind bore formed in one of said body and said lever and in operative engagement with said pawl, said detent comprising a tightly wound spring portion forming a pin and an integrally formed loosely wound spring portion that biases said tightly wound spring portion out of said blind bore and toward said back side of said pawl.

17. (Withdrawn) The ratchet tool of claim 16, wherein said detent is formed from a nylon material.

18. (Withdrawn) The ratchet tool of claim 16, wherein said detent is formed from a metallic material.

19. (Withdrawn) The ratcheting tool of claim 16, wherein said pawl defines a first radius and wherein said gear defines a second radius that is smaller than said first radius.

20. (Withdrawn) A ratcheting tool comprising:

- a. a body;
- b. a gear rotatably disposed in said body and defining a first plurality of teeth about an outer circumference thereof;
- c. a pawl disposed in said body and having

a front side that faces said first plurality of gear teeth and that has a second plurality of teeth, and

a back side facing away from said gear, wherein said pawl is movable between a first position in which said body imparts rotation to said gear in a first direction and a second position in which said body

imparts rotation to said gear in a second direction opposite said first direction;

- d. a lever rotatably disposed in said body proximate said pawl; and
  - e. a detent disposed in a blind bore in one of said body and said lever and in operative engagement with said pawl, said detent having, a housing, a plunger received in said housing and a spring that biases said plunger toward said pawl backside.
21. (Withdrawn) The ratcheting tool of claim 20, wherein said housing defines a closed first end and a partially open second end.
22. (Withdrawn) The ratcheting tool of claim 20, wherein said pawl defines a first radius and wherein said gear defines a second radius that is smaller than said first radius.